SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE

SARL NEWS SUNDAY 29 DECEMBER 2002

You are listening to Amateur Radio Station ZS6SRL of the South African Radio League, the National society for Amateur Radio in South Africa, with a news bulletin that is broadcast every Sunday at 08:15 Central Africa Time (CAT) in Afrikaans and at 08:30 CAT in English.

This bulletin is also available on the website of the SARL at www.sarl.org.za and on packet bulletin boards.

SARL NEWS invites clubs and individuals to submit news items of interest to amateurs to sarlnews@hotmail.com not later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date. It would be appreciated if you could do it in both English and Afrikaans.

In the news today:

RENEWAL NOTICES FOR 2003 RADIO LICENCES ARE IN THE POST

CONTEST SEASON OPENS

INTERESTING NEWS ITEM FROM "DOWN UNDER"

SARL PRESIDENT'S NET

SPECIAL EVENT, TO MARK MARCONI 1903 TRANSMISSION CENTENNIAL

Stay tuned for more details on these and other news items.

You are tuned to ZS6SRL. Visit the SARL Website or call the SARL office which is open on weekdays from nine to thirteen hours (09:00 to 13:00) at 0(zero)11 675 2393 for details on how to join, book sales and all related amateur radio activities.

The news follows in detail:

RENEWAL NOTICES FOR 2003 RADIO LICENCES ARE IN THE POST.

If you have not already received your renewal notice for your radio licence you can expect to receive it shortly as a number of amateurs have already received theirs from ICASA. The good news is that the fees have not been increased but have to be paid by 31 January as is usual.

CONTESTING SEASON OPENS

Need an excuse to get out of your gardening chores? Well there is some contesting you can get involved in during January 2003. First there is the annual Hunting Lions on the Air, which will run over the weekend of 11 and 12 January 2003. The rules for this contest are available on the SARL website at www.sarl.org.za/public/contests.
Contact your local Lions club and setup the station to take part.

On Saturday 18 January 2003 the first SARL Kids Day will take place.
The aim of the Kid's Day is intended to encourage young people (licensed or not) to enjoy Amateur Radio. It can give young people hands-on on-the-air experience so they might develop an interest in pursuing a license in the future. It is intended to give hams a chance to share their stations with children. The activity starts at 09:00 and ends at 11:00 CAT with activity on 14.125 to 14.150 MHz, 7.040 to 7.065 MHz and 2-meter repeater frequencies. Call "CQ Kid's Day". The exchange is the name, age, location and favourite colour of the child. Participants are encouraged to work the same station again if an operator has changed. Either set-up a station at a local school or a local shopping mall or from your home and get the young people to enjoy amateur radio.

Starting at 18:00 CAT on Friday 24 and ending at 18:00 on Sunday 26 January 2003 you can participate in the Port Elizabeth ARS's VHF/UHF Contest. The rules for this first VHF/UHF contest of the year can be found on the SARL website at www.sarl.org.za/public/contests or by contacting the Port Elizabeth ARS.

SPECIAL EVENT, TO MARK MARCONI 1903 TRANSMISSION CENTENNIAL

Special event station KM1CC will be on the air January 11-19, 2003, to mark the 100th anniversary of Guglielmo Marconi's inaugural wireless transmission between the US and Great Britain January 18, 1903 (January 19 UTC). On that date, from the sandy Cape Cod cliffs overlooking the Atlantic, Marconi, using a powerful (35 kW) rotary spark transmitter coupled to a massive antenna system, transmitted a 54-word greeting from President Theodore Roosevelt to England's King Edward VII. The monarch promptly acknowledged receipt of the message via landline and cable, literally igniting the spark of global communication.

INTERESTING NEWS ITEM FROM "DOWN UNDER"

This news item is an extract from QNEWS on the impressions of the Federal President of the WIA, ERNEST HOCKING, VK1LK, on his visit to the VK1 technical conference "OneTech02". It was his third visit to such a technical conference there and his impressions are valuable food for thought, and action, for all radio amateurs.

On his arrival at the venue he was already impressed by the outside broadcast TV studio setup which belongs to the Gladesville Amateur Radio Club. He was further impressed to see the incredible effort put in by the Gladesville team which could only make you sit up and pay attention to just what amateur radio operators can achieve when they work together.

During the conference representatives from the Australian National University talked about their Bush LAN project, the Department of Defence and their HF modernisation project. Representatives of the IEEE and a very enthusiastic group of amateurs were all happy to talk and discuss their experiences and experiments.

During lunchtime a panel discussion about the future direction of the hobby took place.

There was a common theme - it was all about radio - but what a range of diverse aspects of the hobby! They had talks about using fluorescent light tubes as a 2m plasma antenna, computer enthusiasts talked about using Linux to drive amateur radio projects, and a number of people talked about how we can work with others to assist in using our experience to assist in Community Wireless LAN projects.

He heard the question, "is amateur radio a dying hobby?" and replied that these technical conferences have convinced him that amateur radio is very much alive and kicking - maybe its taking a different form from that of previous years - but the same enthusiasm and pioneering spirit that captured the imagination of earlier generations is very much alive.

Reflecting on his impressions of these various events he says that it has convinced him that we owe it to the next generation of amateur radio enthusiasts to do everything that we can to bring to their attention the merits of the hobby. "Furthermore we need to make entry into the hobby appropriate to modern needs and relevant to the sorts of activities that a new generation of amateurs will undertake as part of the hobby", he said.

SARL PRESIDENT'S NET

Remember to join the Presidents Net which will be on the air every LAST Sunday of the Month on 7082kHz as from January 2003

SARL NEWS wishes all it's listeners a very Happy and Prosperous New Year.

This bulletin was compiled by Gustav, ZS6BWN and read by …….from ……. as a service to radio amateurs, short wave listeners and electronic enthusiasts.

The SARL invites you to listen to Amateur Radio Mirror International on 21560, 9750, and 7082 kHz and 145,625 MHz in East London, 145,650 in Durban and 145,750 MHz in the Pretoria area. A repeat broadcast can be heard on Mondays at 20:00 CAT on 3215 kHz.

ARMI is sponsored by Telkom and Sentech.

You have been listening to ZS6SRL, thank you for joining us. Also a big word of thanks to those persons supplying news for these bulletins and the amateurs who relay the bulletins so regularly.

Goodbye everyone.

/EX